

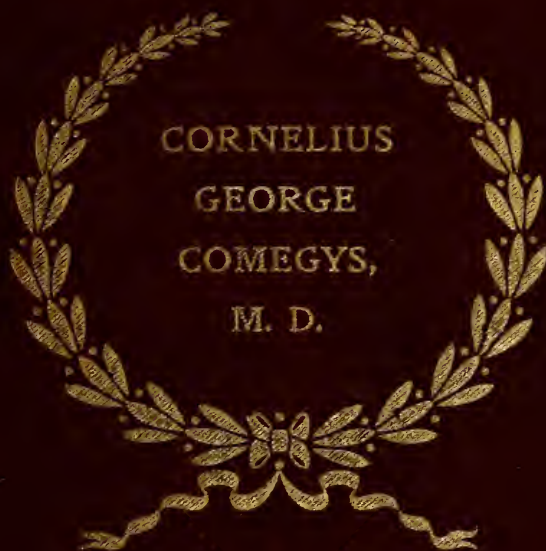
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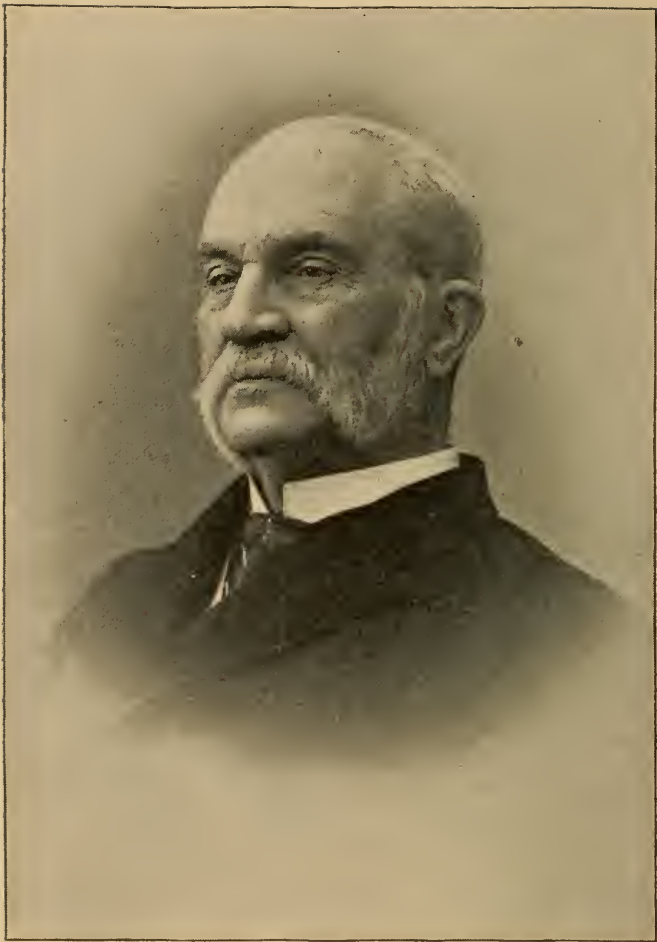


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*C. G. Comegys*

# CORNELIUS GEORGE COMEGYS, M. D.

HIS LIFE AND CAREER  
IN THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF CINCINNATI  
FOR NEARLY  
HALF A CENTURY

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*WITH APPENDIX*

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BY  
CHARLES GEORGE COMEGYS, A. B., LL. B.

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CINCINNATI  
PUBLISHED BY THE FAMILY  
1899

R154. C73

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1899

PRESS OF S. ROSENTHAL & CO

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CINCINNATI.

TO the memory of my mother,  
REBECCA TIFFIN COMEGYS,  
the noble help-meet of her husband, this book  
is affectionately dedicated.

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“ Sleep sweetly, tender heart, in peace,  
Sleep to the end, true soul and sweet;  
Sleep, holy spirit, blessed dead,  
While the stars burn, the moons increase.  
And the great ages onward roll.”



## PREFACE

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THIS memoir is written to preserve, in a brief way, some of the incidents and events which characterized the life and career of DR. C. G. COMEGYS. While it is intended especially for his family, relatives, and friends, it is hoped that it may also interest those who have been associated with, or have been beneficiaries of, the institutions with which he was connected and for whose interests he labored. In whatever character he bore himself—as a physician, a churchman, a citizen, a member of city and educational boards—he sank his individuality, and acted only for the public welfare. It may, at some future day, be a gratification to his descendants to contemplate that, by his self-abnegation, and the voluntary giving up of opportunities of personal pecuniary advantage to help others, he gained a greater reward.

This account, however, would be incomplete were no mention made of her who, for over fifty years, entered into the joys and sorrows, the triumphs and defeats of his life. In addition, therefore, to the dedication which has been made, a brief sketch is appended of a life which, though full of good deeds, can merely be outlined in this book.

CHARLES G. COMEGYS.

CINCINNATI, February 10, 1899.



## CORNELIUS GEORGE COMEGYS, M. D.

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IT would not be possible, in a brief sketch, to present a complete history of the career of Dr. Comegys. His life was full of many incidents, and he lived for others, rather than for himself. Possessed of the highest ideals and the utmost purity of thought, his character was too earnest for the frivolities of life. He felt that he had a duty to perform, and he cast himself into the work, body and soul.

A love for his fellow men filled his heart, and his one great impulse was to aid in the improvement of the mind as well as to heal the body, and to give to all persons equal opportunities of education. The value of this he believed to be greater than riches ; and, though a busy man in his profession, he devoted the greater part of his life to active and indefatig-

able efforts in the cause of education. Thus, over forty years were spent in the faculties of the medical colleges and hospitals, in the School Board, and in the Board of Trustees of the University of Cincinnati.

He was a friend to young men especially, both by words of counsel, and by active endeavors to aid them in obtaining employment. In this, too, his efforts were always disinterested and often to his own disadvantage. In the sick-room his skill and ready sympathy won the hearts of his patients, and caused him to be regarded as the confidential friend, as well as the medical adviser.

Cornelius George Comegys was born July 23, 1816, on an old ancestral farm, called "Cherbourg", near Dover, Kent County, Delaware. His father was Cornelius Parsons Comegys, who was the Governor of Delaware, from 1838 to 1841, and who, in the war of 1812, was Lieutenant Colonel. The name Cornelius was an old family one, and was carried down from the Cornelius Comegys who came from

Holland to America and settled on the east shore of Chesapeake Bay, in old Kent County, Maryland, 1661, where he had a large plantation. He was naturalized, with his wife Millimenty, and his children—Cornelius, Elizabeth, William, and Hannah Comegys, in 1671.

The mother of Cornelius George Comegys was Ruhamah Marim, a daughter of John Marim, a Lieutenant in the revolutionary army; and, he was also descended from English ancestors of the early colonial days—one of whom, William Winsmore, was a member of William Penn's Assembly in 1683.

Cornelius George, or George, as he was always called by his family and relations, was the last child of the family born at Cherbourg. This farm was a part of a tract of land granted in 1680 to William Winsmore, an ancestor on his mother's side, and known as "Little Pipe Elm"—the name of a family estate in England. Later it was called Cherbourg, and in the lifetime of his father was sold. On account of family ties and his strong

affection for the home of his early days, it was purchased, about January 1, 1881, by Cornelius, and is now in the possession of his children.

While in his earliest childhood, his father, who was the cashier of the Farmers' Bank in Dover, removed his family to that place, and their home was in the building in which the bank was located. There the four younger children were born.

Time passed by, and the family, which had become of goodly size, was living happily amid pleasant surroundings, when the home was broken up. The cashier, who for eleven years had been faithful to his duties, suddenly, and from political causes entirely, was forced to leave the bank and the residence in the building. This aroused a great deal of feeling, and an act for the vindication of the cashier was determined upon by those in power in the State. The State held a large proportion of the shares of stock of the Farmers' Bank, and the Legislature, then in session, and of the

same party and politics as the cashier, immediately appointed him a Director in the bank. So that, a few days later, he sat at the meeting of the Board of Directors—a promotion which his colleagues, no doubt, failed to enjoy.

The loss of position, together with salary and home incident to it, was, however, a serious blow. It compelled him, in the middle of January, to move his family of eight children\* (the youngest scarcely three months old) to Cherbourg, where, by reason of the distance from Dover and the condition of the roads in winter, they were cut off from the society of their friends, and were thrown upon their own resources for entertainment. At this time Cornelius was about twelve years of age. None of the children went to school for that first year, and such few books as were within their reach became the solace of their quiet lives and were read with avidity.

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\* William H., Sarah Ann (afterwards, Mrs. Ridgely), Joseph P., Cornelius G., Benjamin B., Mary Elizabeth (afterwards, Mrs. Chatham), Maria, and John M. Comegys.

When spring opened the four older sons were all set to work in the fields, and worked in accordance with their strength.

The interrupted schooling was resumed a year later, as a public school was opened about two miles from their home, which the younger children attended. Cornelius, however, went to a private academy in Dover, about four miles away. This walk of eight miles every day, in all sorts of weather and over a bad road, was a pretty hard one, but he was faithful in his attendance and a zealous student—especially of mathematics. He had many friendly arguments, on this subject, with his younger brother, Benjamin, whom his propositions often startled; and, in such cases, he was called upon to prove his statements, the doing of which gave him the greatest satisfaction. He was fond of playing the school-master, and, one winter, a room was set apart in the house as a school-room, and Cornelius was constituted the teacher of a class of three—his pupils being his two young sisters and

youngest brother, John. This proved of much value to him, and, later, gave him the idea of becoming a teacher.

Things went on in this way for some years, with schooling in winter and working on the farm in the summer. This work in the fields was a hard one ; but to it, no doubt, he was indebted for his large frame, robust health, and strong constitution.

He did not, at once, carry out his intention of becoming a teacher, for his first employment was that of a clerk in a store in Dover. This gave him an idea of business and, added to his small stock of knowledge, was of much value to him.

All the time, however, he felt that he must make a career, for himself, in the world. He had, at one period, a great ambition to enter the navy as a midshipman ; and, although he received little or no encouragement from his family, he persevered in his endeavors, which culminated in his making a personal application, by letter, to

the Secretary of the Navy. In due time a reply came under the "frank" of the Secretary, but the effort was unsuccessful. It was a bitter disappointment to him, as he had set his heart upon it, having a great fondness for boats. At one time, he even tried to build a small propeller. This love for the sea never died out and was one of the strong affections of his life. In his brief vacations from his practice, in later years, he always turned his course toward Delaware and the sea, where the smell of the salt air and the view of the boundless ocean acted as a tonic for his entire system.

Cornelius felt that the employment in the store was neither sufficiently lucrative nor in keeping with his ambition. And, when about nineteen years of age, he secured a position as teacher in a public school, in a neighborhood about ten miles from his home. He taught there for about a year and made his home in the family of a widow, living near the school-house, who tried to make the young teacher comfortable. He generally spent his Sundays

at "Chipping Norton", the old family place of his mother's family, the Marims, in the society of his uncle, Charles Marim, a man of extraordinary conversational powers, which, with his wide reading and great intelligence, made him a most fascinating companion.

Cornelius, during his year's teaching, accumulated a small sum of money. The training there was of the utmost value to him in after life, and inculcated a deep love for study and the improvement of the mind. In his reading, then and later, he cared little for fiction, except as regards that of the standard novelists whom he greatly admired; but, the bent of his mind was towards philosophy, logic, and psychology. He was of a very inquiring and restless mind, and used for a motto the words: "He that asketh much, learneth much." In his intercourse with his younger brothers and sisters in his youth, and with his children in after life, while he believed in wholesome recreation, he always discouraged what he considered frivolities, as he felt that

time was too valuable to be given to anything except to the earnest work of life. He set a goal for himself, to reach which he worked with an energy and persistence most remarkable. Opposition never daunted him, but only spurred him on to renewed efforts. He had a wish about this time to study medicine, but the way was not yet clear; so the desire lay dormant until the time was ripe.

The condition of his father's affairs was such that it became necessary for some of the remaining children to break off home ties and seek employment elsewhere. Cornelius was the eldest son then at home, and, feeling the necessity of taking some vital step, he determined, with the small stock of money he had saved from his salary as a teacher, to seek his fortune in the West. This was a great undertaking in those days, before the advent of railroads, when the only means of traveling was by the stage-coach, canal, and river. But the necessity seemed great, and he had heard of opportunities across the mountains. So,

with many letters of commendation, secured by his father, he departed on his long journey. His objective point was Indianapolis, where he expected to find work in a civil-engineering corps, surveying the road to St. Louis, which was being done by the government. Having reached Pittsburg, after his journey across the mountains, he passed down the Ohio River on a boat to Louisville, where he landed, and proceeded to Indianapolis.

Not finding the opening he expected, he entered, at first, into a business career; but, later, he became the cashier's clerk in the State Bank of Indiana. This led to his obtaining a position as cashier of a bank in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

While in Indianapolis he made many friends and went a good deal into society. There he met Miss Rebecca Turner Tiffin, a daughter of the late Dr. Edward Tiffin, the first Governor of Ohio, an ex-Senator of the United States, and the holder of other offices of distinction and trust under the State and

general government. Miss Tiffin was a resident of Chillicothe, Ohio, and was, at that time, visiting her relatives, the Porters, in Indianapolis. The result of the acquaintance thus made, and the subsequent meetings during the winter season, was an engagement. On October 3, 1839, they were married in Chillicothe, and went to Lawrenceburg to live.

Some time afterwards a business opening appeared which looked promising, and, being urged to enter into a partnership to conduct a large flouring-mill, Cornelius Comegys gave up his position in the bank and entered that business. For a time he was eminently successful, and the business prospered beyond all expectations. But, through keen and unworthy competition, as well as an over-production of flour, a failure resulted. The whole burden of paying the debts of the concern fell upon him, as his partner not only had nothing, but even diverted the funds placed in his hands to pay the creditors. This compelled him to pay many of the debts twice

over, and the burden, until he finally settled up all his obligations, rested upon his shoulders for years.

This experience, though bitter at the time, proved to be the turning-point in his life. After much thought as to the future, he determined to begin life afresh by taking up the study of medicine, a profession for which he had had an early predilection. In pursuance of this resolution he determined to leave Lawrenceburg, the scene of his early married life, and the place where his two daughters were born, and removed to Philadelphia. He at once matriculated in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and also placed himself, as a private pupil, under Dr. George Horner, Professor of Chemistry in the University. He also pursued other outside studies, and among them that of French, which he deemed necessary in order to read the medical works of the eminent French writers. His instructor in this was Delacroix, a French teacher of note, whose method of

teaching he greatly admired. In March, 1848, he took his degree in medicine, and practiced for about a year in Philadelphia, during which time he made a number of very warm friends. Here was born his eldest son, Cornelius Marim Comegys, who died, in Cincinnati, at the age of twenty years.

Although his prospects were good, he thought the field would be better in the West, and therefore removed to Cincinnati, where, by his successful treatment of the Asiatic Cholera, which visited the city in 1849, he gained a large practice. This was the second visitation of that awful scourge. It broke out in April of that year. It came by way of New Orleans, and, in a consultation, he probably saw the first case. The patient was a German immigrant who had just arrived in the city from New Orleans. The ravages of the cholera lasted until about the middle of August, and Dr. Comegys distinguished himself by his untiring efforts and skill among his patients—one of whom was his own wife.

Being thoroughly ambitious to be fully equipped for the practice of his profession, and feeling the need of a wider clinical study, he went abroad, in 1851, to spend a year in the medical schools and hospitals of London and Paris. In the former, his especial instruction was under the eminent medical staff of Guy's Hospital; and, in the latter, his preceptor was Professor J. M. Charcot, chief of the clinical staff of La Charité Hospital, and afterwards the distinguished writer on "Nervous Diseases" and "Diseases of the Spinal Cord." The courses of instruction, and the constant contact with the eminent physicians and surgeons abroad, greatly broadened the scope of his knowledge, and enabled him to introduce a number of new features into the medical schools and hospitals at home.

Upon returning to Cincinnati, in 1852, Dr. Comegys gave a course of lectures on Anatomy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He then joined in the organization of the Miami Medical College, as professor of the

Institutes of Medicine, and continued with the college until its fusion with the Ohio Medical College in 1857. In this he was allotted the same chair, and, in addition, that of clinical teacher on the medical staff of the Cincinnati Hospital, which, at that time, was under the control of the Medical College of Ohio. He resigned his college duties in 1869, but retained his position on the staff of the Hospital to the close of his life, and during the last seven or eight years of that time was president of the staff.

He was one of the founders of the Academy of Medicine, and twice served as its president. He was a member of the old Medico-Chirurgical Society, and of the Cincinnati Medical Society; of the American Medical Association; of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association; honorary member of the Philadelphia College of Physicians; of the Delaware State Medical Society; of the Western Reserve Historical Society of Ohio; of the Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society; the Trinity

Historical Society of Texas; of the Cincinnati Literary Club; and of a number of other like organizations.

Dr. Comegys was endowed with a very liberal mind, and his residence abroad improved his natural faculties and aroused a desire to see the growth and development of Cincinnati. As a good citizen he believed it a vital duty to concentrate his energies in some particular line of work for the progress of the city; and, as he had the utmost respect for learning, he thought its avenues should be open to all. While still a young practitioner with a large family, he still found time, in spite of the duties and anxieties of his profession, to take an active interest in educational matters. As a member of the School Board, to which he was elected on April 2, 1855, from the 14th Ward, he visited the schools frequently, formed acquaintances with the teachers, and watched the progress of the scholars. He was instrumental in starting a night High

School for the instruction of young business men, who were thus enabled to complete their interrupted education. Many of the successful business men of to-day attended that school. As chairman of the Public Library Committee, he saw the possibilities of the library as a factor in education, and the necessity for a larger structure and better care of the books to prevent their destruction. By joining forces with the Mechanics' Institute, which had a suitable building and was better equipped, he thought the future of the library would be assured. An opportunity for this having occurred, he struggled with might and main against indifference, procrastination, and strong opposition of many of his fellow-members in the matter. Often discouraged, but never abating one jot of his zeal, he persisted in his work and at length saw his labors crowned with success and the foundation laid for the splendidly equipped Public Library of to-day.

The story, however, is best told in the account given by the Cincinnati Commercial\* of the formal opening of the new building of the Public Library on Wednesday, February 25, 1874. Among the speakers of that occasion was Rev. Thomas Vickers, the Librarian at that time.

Mr. Vickers first sketches the origin and progress of the Library, resulting in the magnificent new structure, and says that "many have contributed to the glorious work." "The inception," he continues, "was in 1854, at which time a tax of one-tenth of a mill was on the tax duplicate for purchase of books by Commissioners of Common Schools for Township libraries. This resulted in sixteen small libraries exactly alike, one for each Ward (16). This being undesirable, the Board of Education made an arrangement to unite them into one. This was done in 1855, and they were put into a building of the Board on Longworth Street. The Board

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\* Of February 26, 1874.

had no means to purchase a lot for a building and Messrs. French, Comegys, and Rice were appointed the first Library Committee.

During November and December, ineffectual efforts were made by the Librarian, Mr. John D. Caldwell, and Dr. Comegys, to provide rooms for the School Board and Library in the Cincinnati College Building. In January, 1856, numerous localities were considered and various offers made, but no decision was arrived at. Meanwhile, circulars were sent to men of culture in the various departments of learning, requesting their cooperation in the selection of books. Then came a relaxation of interest on the part of many, in the library, coupled with a determined opposition, of some, to paying a surplus tax, for this purpose, to other portions of the state.

Alarmed for the future of the Library, Dr. Comegys, now chairman of the Library Committee, summoned all his energies to the work of securing an independent library

tax for this city. Printed petitions were distributed, by the teachers and scholars of all the public schools, to be signed by the names of their parents and friends and were afterwards forwarded in great numbers to the Legislature. In March, 1856, Mr. Caldwell, the Librarian, was chosen one of the Directors of the Mechanics' Institute. At the very first meeting of that Board he secured the appointment of a committee, viz: President Wilstach, Mr. Bruce, and Mr. Burke, to confer with President King, Dr. Comegys, and A. S. Sullivan, Committee of the School Board, relative to uniting the Public and Mechanics' Institute Libraries and furnishing a Session Hall and School Board office in the Mechanics' Institute.

A proposition was made, on the part of the officers of the Mechanics' Institute, and on May 5, 1856, the Library Committee agreed to accept it, the Public Library furnishing 2,400 volumes and the Mechanics' Institute furnishing 4,000 volumes—many of

them invaluable books—the nucleus of all the pioneer libraries gathered together in the progress of a town or city.

The committee, through Dr. Comegys, congratulated the School Board and the public that they had procured all these facilities—sure to be a great central attraction, calculated to elevate the intellectual and moral character of the people—all for \$600 a year, that being the interest on city bonds to the amount of \$10,000, to be transferred to the Institute and held until both parties agreed to withdraw from the contract, when the bonds would be returned.

The Committee, though convinced of the importance of this advance step in behalf of the people, met with an unexpected rebuff from the School Board. On a vote to close the contract and arrange for the use of the building, the vote was—ayes, 10; nays, 16.

The Library Committee, not disheartened, in two weeks after renewed the proposition. It was discussed and laid over for one week,

but no action was taken until June 9. The School Board agreed to avail itself of the privilege of the amended law to tax the people of Cincinnati, for library purposes, one-tenth of a mill.

On the 16th of June—a memorable day—Dr. Comegys visited, personally, the majority of the members of the School Board to urge their attendance that evening. Amid much excitement the contract with the Mechanics' Institute was ordered by—ayes, 20; nays, 6. Those who voted in the negative were: Messrs. Armstrong, Beattie, Powers, Rowekamp, Speer, and President King.

This was a technical victory. The project favored by the Chairman of the Library Committee was adopted, but the President of the Board announced that he would enter his written protest on the journal, and Mr. Speer gave notice that he would join him in the protest.

On the 7th of July, Dr. Comegys urged that the City Council approve the contract

and add the City instead of the School Board. This matter received attention in the City Council, but the Law Committee disposed of it there by their report that the city bonds designed to be used in the contract were entirely at the disposal of the School Board. It thus became the duty of the School Board to conclude the contract. It was done, in spite of the most determined struggle on the part of those who were opposed to it. On July 31, 1856, it was signed on the part of the School Board by Dr. Comegys, A. S. Sullivan, and Lyman Harding, the president having, at his request, been excused from this duty.

This action was really the crossing of the Rubicon for the Public Library. It gave it an importance which it probably would not otherwise have obtained; and those to whose untiring energy the action was due ought to be gratefully remembered to-day. It is a pleasing reflection that, as a consequence of the occupancy of the Mechanics' Institute

Building, the cause of education received a new impulse. A night high school was established with eminent success in Greenwood Hall, and an art gallery, which, under the fostering care of the then president of the School Board, has grown into the McMicken School of Design, the Art Department of the University of Cincinnati. Nor is it less pleasant to remember that, since that time, the Mechanics' Institute has become entirely free from debt, has paid back the \$10,000 to the Board of Education, and is otherwise now able to help its former friends and benefactors. From this point the Library may really be considered as firmly established." \* \* \* \*

Dr. Comegys' experience as a member of the School Board was, however, only introductory to his work in the municipal boards, and to an educational one of greater magnitude. He served for a short time in the City Council and also a term in the Board of Aldermen. He was elected a trustee of

the City Council, from the 15th Ward, at an election held on August 21, 1869, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of T. F. Baker. He was elected to the Board of Aldermen, from the 15th Ward, on April 4, 1870. His services in both boards were always in the way of reform and economy in the municipal government; and he threw himself into every important measure with all the energy of his nature. The ulterior object which he had in view in entering the City Council was to pave the way for carrying out the bequest of Charles McMicken in the establishing, by means of a city charter, of the University of Cincinnati.

This institution is indebted for its existence to the generosity of Charles McMicken, who, at his death, in 1858, left his large fortune to the City of Cincinnati to found an institution of learning in which students of both sexes should receive, without cost, the benefits of a sound, thorough, and practical education, sim-

ilar to that taught in the colleges and universities of the country.

The first steps to the carrying out of this bequest was the action by which Rufus King, James Wilson, Miles Greenwood, Dr. C. G. Comegys, Henry F. Handy, and G. B. Hollister, Directors of the McMicken University, elected by the City Council, met in the Council Chamber on Friday, December 30, 1859, and organized.

The income of the munificent gift and endowment, however, was insufficient to establish, at once, the University. A large amount of the real estate in Louisiana was lost, owing to the fact that that state refused to recognize the validity of bequests of real estate to institutions not located within her borders. Besides, there were many expenses and charges upon the estate, so that for years the whole income was devoted to rebuilding and repairing the stores, ware-houses, and dwellings, and the payment of the legacies and annuities to the heirs of McMicken. It was not until

1867 that enough funds were accumulated for educational purposes, and the McMicken School of Art and Design was started. This was very successful; but, in order to relieve the Trustees of an expense of \$2,500 a year, it was deemed advisable to transfer the school to the Art Museum Association. The money on hand being still too small for the maintenance of an Academic Department, the Trustees determined to apply, through the City Council, for a charter of the University of Cincinnati which would authorize a consolidation of all the other educational funds with that of the McMicken estate and a subvention of one-tenth of a mill tax on the grand levy.

Dr. Comegys was one of the most ardent supporters of this measure, and deemed it of the utmost importance that there should be some one in the City Council friendly to it, and who would strongly advocate it. A vacancy occurring in the City Council by the resignation of the member from his own ward,

and deeming that his duty lay in seizing this opportunity to further the interests of the University at this most critical time, he resigned his position as a Trustee and became a candidate for the City Council. He was elected at a special election held on August 21, 1869—as previously mentioned.

The Legislature having passed enabling laws, the charter was granted, in 1870, by the City Council. Through the Board of Education, one-tenth of a mill tax was also granted. The income of the McMicken estate was transferred by the old board to the new board of directors of the University of Cincinnati, which organized on December 26, 1870.

Dr. Comegys' absence from the University was only temporary, for, in 1873, his name appeared among the list of the Board of Directors of the University of Cincinnati, at a time when plans were being made for the organization of the Academic Department. From this time he served continuously until his death, on February 10, 1896,—having

served as the President of the Board of Directors from June 16, 1890, until that time.

The Academic Department of the University of Cincinnati was opened for courses of study, under professors engaged from leading eastern colleges, in October, 1874,—although a preliminary start had been made, the year before, by afternoon classes at Woodward High School, under the instruction of several of the teachers of that school. It was not, however, until September, 1875, that the new University Building, in the course of erection on the homestead property of Charles McMicken, was ready for occupancy. In its own building, with an enlarged corps of teachers and a steadily increasing yearly matriculation of students, the Academic Department passed through the crucial period of its existence. For twenty years the infant college grew until it waxed strong enough to throw off its swaddling clothes and emerge from its dingy surroundings below the hills to the lofty elevation in Burnet Woods—high

above the beautiful Millcreek Valley. In the fall of 1895, a new generation of students opened the splendid, modernly equipped McMicken Hall. Since that time, the munificence of two wealthy citizens has provided the two wings of the main building—Hanna Hall (opened in 1897), and Cunningham Hall (now in the course of erection)—thus completing the group of buildings as designed. Another noble-hearted citizen, Mr. Asa Van Wormer, has given the sum of sixty thousand dollars to be used for the erection of a library building, for which, as a nucleus of a library, Mr. William A. Proctor has bought and donated "The Robert Clarke Library"—a rare and valuable collection; Mr. Robert Clarke also has donated \$1,000 worth of books.

It was for this development that Dr. Comegys worked from his first connection as director of the McMicken University, from its organization on December 30, 1859, to the time of his death on February 10, 1896,—a period covering nearly one-half of his life—and he

lived to see the fruits of his labor. The struggles and vicissitudes of the University were many, but the duties of the Board of Directors found no more faithful servant. Although a busy man in a profession in which he could not call his time his own, he never failed in his attendance at board or committee meetings, unless prevented by sickness, absence from the city, or the imperative calls incident to his profession.

His ideals were very high, and it was his earnest desire to unite all the higher institutions of learning in the city with the University of Cincinnati—with departments of law, medicine, art, and music. His annual reports show this, and in his last report, January 1, 1895, under the heading of—"An Alliance of other Schools in our City under the Insignia of the University of Cincinnati,"—he says:

"This subject has frequently been alluded to in the Annual Reports of the University, and much has been accomplished and much more can be done, and we hope the public feel-

ing on this matter will assume a potent form. The value of treaties, leagues, and alliances for definite objects which could not be effected individually, is attested by all history, notably in our time by the confederation of the German States that form the German Empire, and the tripartite treaty of Germany, Italy, and Austria; in the business world, by the combination of lines of railroads to form transportation systems; in the educational world, the examples of the union of twenty-three colleges under the insignia of the Oxford University, also of the Cambridge University, in England. These colleges have separate boards of governors, endowments, faculties, and arrangement of studies. Is it not the true policy for Cincinnati to consolidate her institutions of learning, so as to give our University a rank with the greatest in our country? This is not a doubtful question. We have at this moment students in arts and sciences, law, medicine, art, and music, aggregating two thousand five hundred, and before

the end of the century the number will have increased to three thousand. This is an enormous number, and will place our University in the front rank with the great institutions of civilization."

Dr. Comegys worked to create all of these departments and made many personal efforts. He was especially sanguine of the early creation of a Medical Department by effecting a union with the Medical College of Ohio. Many obstacles intervened and many meetings of committees were held. During his last illness, just before taking to his bed, and when scarcely able to sit up, he called a meeting of the joint committees from the University Board and from the Medical College of Ohio. To his deep disappointment no agreement for the union was consummated. Within a few weeks he died, and, shortly after, the work for which he had labored so earnestly, and upon which he had set his heart, was completed, and the establishment of the Medical Department was accomplished.

The same year saw the formation of a new Law Department, which proved a marked success. Later, a consolidation was effected with the "Law School of the Cincinnati College," an old and well-known institution, by which the latter was merged into the Law Department of the University of Cincinnati.

Among the affiliated schools are: The Clinical and Pathological School of the Cincinnati Hospital, and the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. So that the seed that was planted bore fruit.

During the long services of Dr. Comegys on the Board of Trustees of the University he was associated with many of the most distinguished professional and business men of Cincinnati, who freely gave of their time and strength for this most noble work. A strong constitution and a great capacity for work enabled him to survive all of the elder and earlier members of the Board, and his advanced age found him working with the enthusiasm and energy of a young man.

He died in the harness, as he wished to do, with almost his last thoughts and efforts upon the carrying out of this great trust. He laid the corner-stone of McMicken Hall in Burnet Woods, on September 22, 1894, but the stones which he placed in the foundation of the University of Cincinnati were laid long before this and will be as lasting as the institution itself.

In his profession Dr. Comegys was an ardent and indefatigable worker, and his practice was very large and extensive. His patients embraced all classes of people, high and low, rich and poor. He discriminated against none, and gave the same attention to those who could afford to pay little or nothing as to those who were in affluent circumstances. He never refused a call and day and night, as long as he was able to respond, he was at the service of his patients. Like most physicians he did much for charity and often for those who could have paid for his services, if they would. In the

sick-room he was tender and sympathetic, and in many families he was the confidential friend and adviser, as well as the physician. He often assisted those whose needs became known in this way, and exerted his influence in obtaining situations for the unemployed parents or children. The number of the many acts of kindness and help performed in this way will never become known as he never cared to talk of these things, and confidences reposed in him were never betrayed—not even to his own family.

He associated himself with the Medical Colleges and Hospital almost at the beginning of his career, lecturing and giving bedside instruction almost daily during the winter courses. His days were busy ones. He started out, with his horse and buggy, immediately after breakfast, and was occupied during the entire day and early evening in lecturing, visiting patients, seeing them at his office, and in performing his other duties—only going home for his meals. Until

latter years and before rapid transit had impelled the movement toward the suburbs, the city proper was the principal field of his operations. His practice, however, led him, even at that time, to many country places, within a radius of five miles from the center of the city, which then could only be reached by driving. His services as a consulting physician were often in demand in neighboring cities and states, necessitating many railroad trips. Consultations at home were frequent and, in addition, his office practice was large. He was also, for years, one of the medical examiners for the local office of one of the largest insurance companies of New York.

He was much interested in several of the medical associations and especially the American Medical Association, whose meetings he generally attended. The development of the journal of that association appealed to him greatly and he devoted much thought to plans for its enlargement and believed that,

as a national journal, its location should be at the national capital, Washington.

He had the utmost love and veneration for his profession, and believed its capacity for doing good and for promoting the bodily and mental health of the people to be boundless. He thought a healthy body was a prerequisite for a sound mind; and he believed it to be within the power of the government, through the medical profession, to bring about this condition. He deemed the Cabinet incomplete without medical representation, and urged the American Medical Association to use its influence to establish a "Department of Public Health" and the appointment of a "Secretary of Public Health." Accordingly, a resolution was adopted by the Association that a committee be appointed to petition Congress to create a Cabinet Officer to be known as "Medical Secretary of Public Health."

Dr. Comegys was the chairman of the committee, prepared the petition himself, and

sent it to the various members of the large committee, scattered over the country, for their signatures. In his printed circular he spoke of the vital importance, for the health of the nation, of establishing hygienic measures for the prevention of disease and the spreading of pestilence. He believed that the people should be enlightened in sanitary ways of living, and that, under a single department and head, there should be united all influences which might act upon the physical and mental health of the people. Instead of separate organizations of State Boards of Health, the Signal Service, the medical departments of the Army, Navy, and Marine Service, they should, with all their statistical and general work, be united under a broader and more comprehensive system in which the entire medical profession of the country was involved.

He spent much time and labor upon this matter and made several trips to Washington in its behalf. He personally interested

a number of members of Congress in it and urged other members of the large and representative committee of the American Medical Association to use their influence for the favorable consideration of the petition. Such an undertaking naturally aroused much attention, and, while many of the congressional committee, to which it was referred, gave it a favorable hearing, others showed indifference and even actual opposition. Dr. Comegys endeavored to overcome this hostility and was sanguine of the ultimate success of the petition. His death, however, cut short his work, and the object is still unaccomplished.

Dr. Comegys was always a student. Not only did he devote himself to the study of the books and publications incident to his profession, but he was a wide reader on all subjects and especially those of a historical and philosophical nature. Psychology was a favorite study and much of his leisure time was devoted to it. In traveling, in place of

the works of fiction usually carried by people, he often carried with him a small work on psychology. Much time, and especially on Sundays, was spent in the perusal of works on sacred history and in the study of the Bible. For many years he taught classes of adult Bible scholars in the Sunday School. The writings of St. Paul were an especial delight to him, and he read, exhaustively, the various histories of the life of that Apostle.

He believed very much in popular lectures as a means of diffusing knowledge. During several winters he got up courses of evening lectures at St. Paul M. E. Church; and, besides lecturing himself, he induced many of the professors and teachers in the Medical Colleges, the University of Cincinnati, and the High Schools—besides other prominent men of intellect in the city—to appear. One winter, he also got up a course of lectures in the class-rooms of the Chickering Institute, in which, for several afternoons of each week,

lectures were given by some of the able teachers of that school, as well as by other teachers and professional men. These were given at a moderate subscription price, to cover expenses, and were on popular subjects, such as history, botany, biology, astronomy, medicine, travel, etc.

Some years before his death, he realized the close business relationship which was springing up between this country and the countries of South America and the colonies of Spain in the West Indies, and believed that our young men should become familiar with the Spanish language. It was just being introduced into the University under an able instructor; and, believing this to be a favorable opportunity to give others this advantage, he induced this gentleman to start a class in St. Paul M. E. Church, where, for a nominal sum, those who desired could pursue this important study.

His work of instruction did not stop here, but was extended also to music, of which he was extremely fond. He regarded it as an

important factor in church worship, and believed it should be better understood by the younger members of the congregation. Securing the services of one of the best organists and choir-leaders in the city, he started, during one season, a class in music for the study of reading, by sight, various anthems and part songs. He was, afterwards, the chairman of the music committee, and frequently attended the rehearsals of the choir, in which he took a great interest. He showed his appreciation by his words of encouragement and the offering of suggestions. He was especially fond of chanting, which he believed to be very appropriate, and introduced the chanting of the Psalms into the Sunday service.

In his efforts to place higher learning within the reach of the young (who had no better friend than he was), Dr. Comegys always bore in mind his own efforts to that end. Remembering his own early life as a farmer's boy, and his struggles to obtain more than an elementary education, he made an

effort in his own native state, Delaware, to have an especial school established for the children of farmers to attend in the winter time, when their services were not needed for outdoor work. He wrote a pamphlet entitled "A Plea for a Farmer's Institute," which he circulated extensively, in the endeavor to have an institution founded which would raise the intelligence of the farmers to the highest degree compatible with their lives and surroundings. He believed this would not only benefit the men themselves, but have an appreciable effect upon the productiveness of the soil. The method of instruction should be by lectures chiefly, (though text-books were also to be used for reference and private study). This would not only raise the standard of knowledge, but would teach the chemical processes by which over-worked and barren lands might be rejuvenated and made to produce good crops. Instruction to farmers had been tried in Europe, with great success. An institute, therefore, which would give the farmer

more than the usual rudimentary amount of learning, and would enable him to possess an intelligent realization of the character and composition of the soil, would raise the standard of farming so high as to be of the utmost value to the individual, as well as to the state in which he lived. Ways and means were discussed and the project shown to be thoroughly feasible.

On his own farm, Cherbourg, where he was born, he took a great interest in the cultivation of the ornamental side of the place, in the keeping up of the hedges, and the planting of trees and flowers in the lane and yard around the house. He believed this would not only add attractiveness to the home of the tenant, but would cultivate the senses and inspire a love for the beautiful in nature.

But he did not confine his attention on the subject of culture to any one class of persons, nor to the young. He strongly advocated higher culture among maturer minds and believed that a necessity existed,

in his own city, for the formation of a society for that purpose. On March 29, 1889, he delivered an address before the Historical and Philosophical Society in which he took for his subject, "A Plea for an Institute." He spoke of the Royal Society, of London, the Institute of France, at Paris, and other similar societies. He held up the latter as a model and urged the formation of a society in this city to be known as the "Institute of Cincinnati." This address was afterwards printed in pamphlet form for distribution.

Dr. Comegys was an author, and a contributor to the medical journals. His largest work was the translation, from the French, of the "History of Medicine," by Rénouard—a great and laborious undertaking. This book, which was published in 1855, brought him considerable fame, but is now, unfortunately, out of print. He sometimes, in later years, thought of revising the book for another edition, but the tax upon his time and strength precluded this. In 1881, he translated a work

on the "Diseases of the Spinal Cord," by Prof. J. M. Charcot, his former instructor at Paris and who had afterwards achieved great fame. His medical papers were numerous, and among them were: "Conservative Value of Fever and Inflammation"—published in the transactions of the Cincinnati Medico-Chirurgical Society, 1849; "Etiology and Treatment of Phthisis Pulmonalis"—published in the transactions of the Ohio Medical Society, 1854; "The Pathology and Treatment of Asiatic Cholera," 1866,—published in Blackman and Parvin's "Cincinnati Medical Journal"; an address before the Alumnae Society of the University of Pennsylvania, in 1875, — published by the society. In this address he eulogized Prof. George B. Wood; he also maintained that a healthy brain is necessary to a free will. He spoke of the necessity of a reform in medical education in the line of entrance examinations and of a longer period of instruction, especially for clinical study and laboratory work. He pro-

posed, at the same time, the encouragement of the practice, by physicians, of forensic medicine, which, he argued, would secure a higher form of judicial decisions and serve to advance the medical profession to higher rank and usefulness in the state.

He also strongly advocated and wrote a paper on the value of hot baths in febrile and inflammatory affections. He had at first started with cold baths; and, concerning this, Dr. H. C. Wood, editor of the Philadelphia "Medical Times," after repeated trials said (in his journal in 1877): "It must be granted to Dr. Comegys the discovery of the most life-saving method in modern therapeutics." He, however, found hot baths more efficacious and less distressing to the patient.\*

But this enumeration is small and represents, in a very incomplete manner, his medical writings. He was, also, a ready and prolific writer on many subjects—including

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\* See Watson's "Physicians and Surgeons of America," pp. 184-5.

editorial work. At the outset of his career in Cincinnati, he counted among his friends and patients the Rev. Dr. Simpson (later Bishop Simpson of the M. E. Church), editor of the "Western Christian Advocate," who recognized the abilities of the young practitioner and made him the assistant editor of that paper. When Dr. Comegys went abroad in 1851, he was its European correspondent and wrote many letters which appeared in its columns. He also wrote foreign letters to the "Ladies' Repository."

Dr. Comegys was a trustee of Longview Asylum for the Insane for three years (1862-5), and did much towards the building up of that institution. His visits were frequent and he spent considerable time in the study of the phenomena of mental and nervous diseases, and believed that there was, at that place, a good field for clinical teaching. His familiarity with these diseases, and his study of the brain, led to his being frequently called as an expert witness in the trial of

cases in court involving the mental capacity of testators.

During the Civil War he was greatly interested in the noble work of the Sanitary Commission, and did much actively in its behalf. After the battle at Ft. Donelson, he had charge of the medical department of a hospital relief steamboat which was sent to Pittsburg Landing to bring back the wounded from the battlefield. As a relic of that expedition he brought home with him a musket found beside the dead body of a Confederate soldier.

Dr. Comegys was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he joined early in life, and in which he took the liveliest and most active interest for nearly sixty years. He was not only a teacher of medicine, but also of religion. He was a close student of the Bible, and gave instruction in it to large and intelligent adult classes in the Sunday School. His last membership, which covered many years, was in St. Paul M. E. Church, of which church he was a member of the Official Board.

The appreciation in which Dr. Comegys was held by his fellow-citizens, and the kindly things which were said of him by the press after his death, cannot be detailed here. It may not be out of place, however, to mention one or two, which were especially worthy of note, in this connection, and which were indicative of the estimate given to his character. Here is one :

“Dr. Comegys, whose death was reported yesterday morning, was one of the strong men of the city. Belonging to a profession which taxes the energies of men beyond any other, he yet found time—only busy men can tell how—to devote a great deal of attention to public affairs. As a member of Council, he was faithful in attendance, controlled always by judgment, and animated by the purest motives. He was not inspired by political ambition. He apparently thought that a citizen owed service to the city, and that no citizen could be a good citizen who did not do his part in discharging such service. Would there were more like him !

"In affairs of the University he ever took a deep interest. He was a member of the Board of Trustees from the beginning, we believe, and he watched the slow growth of the institution, through hard times and discouraging conditions, with a hope and zeal that never faltered. As a physician he saw many a helpless child grow into vigorous youth. So watched he over the growth and development of this University, giving it constant and unwearied attention.

"He was a great physician, but the practice of medicine does not involve the public work that the law does; and it is only as a public spirited citizen that a journal can properly and fully speak of him. Men growl about the administration of a city government. They growl everywhere. Here was a man who took off his coat and went to work. He received no pay for any of the valuable time and more valuable counsel he gave. He contributed his best judgment, his best thought to the city. Whether as Councilman or mem-

ber of the School Board, he devoted to the city the painstaking care that he would have used in his own private business affairs. He held to a high standard of honor, and he exacted regard for that standard from others.

"We say again, would that there were more like him in this city! May men be found who, inspired by his example, will come to realize that office-holding is a duty, and that no man has the right to complain who does not himself try to make better the public service of the city. Many a man refuses to run for office whose work is not half as exacting as was that of Dr. Comegys—and he went into the harness early in life, nor put it off even when creeping age must have made his work hard.

"He was a good and useful citizen. Let some one come forward to take his place."\*

We venture, also, to quote a paragraph from another journal:

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\* The Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette*, February 11, 1896. Editorial—"DR. COMEGYS AND PUBLIC SPIRIT."

"Though Dr. Comegys had been living for nearly ten years on what aged people are sometimes disposed to call "borrowed time," all the period beyond the allotted three score and ten being so termed, still in the sense of youthful feeling, with a keen interest in current events and a determination to keep abreast of the times, possibly a little in advance, he was a young man. To the mental and physical infirmities of a burden of years he was a comparative stranger. He was a broad man in that no new science relating to his or any of the learned professions failed to at once rivet his attention. Something of the calibre and spirit of the man was shown in the fact that up to his fatal illness he was as actively engaged in the exacting duties of his laborious profession as when he was thirty or forty years younger." \*

Cincinnati has always been noted for the number of her distinguished physicians and

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\* The Cincinnati *Times-Star*, February 10, 1896. "NOTE AND COMMENT."

surgeons, and the standard is likely to be maintained for many years to come. In an address on "Medicine and Surgery in the Queen City," delivered at the Unity Club on March 25, 1896, Dr. James T. Whittaker, one of the brightest and best cultured men in his profession, says: "No city in the country has ever surpassed us in medicine. Perhaps there may have been times when a better sermon could be heard, or a higher legal opinion obtained in New York, or some other Eastern city, but there never was a time when a diagnosis of a disease could be better made, or an operation be better done elsewhere than here."

During his account of the progress of medicine and surgery from earliest Cincinnati to the present day, Dr. Whittaker sketches the lives of Drs. Daniel Drake, George C. Blackman, James Graham, W. W. Dawson, and Cornelius G. Comegys—with occasional references to many other noted men of the profession. Much of the address, however, must

have been written during the lifetime of Dr. Comegys, for, in his account of the life of Dr. Dawson, he speaks of Dr. Comegys as the last survivor in the old galaxy of Drs. Mendenhall, Wood, and Comegys, who, as colleagues of Dr. Dawson, taught in the Medical Institute of Cincinnati in 1851.

But he continues: "Dr. Comegys, to whom I have alluded as the last survivor, has just died. He was the most beloved man in our profession, both in and out of it. Comegys was a big, broad man, who had climbed, by hard work, to a point of broad survey. He had great ambition, and was busy with schemes day and night to such a degree as to be regarded almost as a dreamer. But his ideas ran always onward and upward, and he kept his eyes so constantly fixed upon the goal as to be unmindful of the obstacles in his way. Some of his practical friends considered him visionary. He did really see visions, but always of things more perfect and pure than those by whom he was surrounded. Comegys

was an embodiment of integrity, purity, and truth. Like Schiller, he believed that every man has opened out before him two courses ; one leads to the ideal, the other to death. But Comegys could never see anything but the course toward the ideal. By hard work and much self-sacrifice he made himself a fine scholar. And all his life he strained his abilities to their utmost capacity in the service of his fellow-men.

“Hear him as he marks out the career of the physician: ‘We march with armies to care for the footsore and fevered soldier, and follow him, too, through the thickest of the fire, not to aid destruction in her work, but to staunch the wounds she makes. It is not the trumpet call, nor the roar of battle that arouses our activity in the great conflict ; but the cries of the wounded and dying—the appalling ruin of the field that inspires our enthusiasm amidst the dark splendor of war. The call of the distressed by night and day incites our energies and supports

our weariness. Not only in crowded places, where the ways are easy, but in sparsely settled regions, amidst the sharp vicissitudes of the seasons, by lonely paths, or in mountain defiles, unmindful of the tempest, we plod our weary way, the perturbations of our anxious hearts keeping time with the fret of the storm. On every hand, infirmity, sickness, helplessness, fearful casualties, bereavement, despair, death; hoping to strengthen, hoping to assuage or to avert, our days are occupied; sustaining the hopes, the agonies, the distresses of society, our responsibilities are momentous, our burdens are often too heavy to bear.'

"Hear him again as he pleads for the protection of the people against the frauds and wickedness of the quack: 'When the human mechanism becomes deranged, and a great contest is set up between the forces of disease and the vital forces, who shall attempt to interfere? The man who has made these laws a study, who knows the opera-

tions of their final causes, who comprehends as far as science has shed light upon the subject, their special and general operations? Or the man who is ignorant of the entire mechanism, and, laying aside all such labor and investigation, attempts to rescue the suffering system by remedies which, according to his gross views, have been successful in a similar case? An irreparable injury, or even death itself may be the result of this ignorant interference, and what atonement then does the prosecution of an irresponsible man afford?

“‘In regard to medicine, everyone,’ he continues, ‘must look out for himself. With the same indifference, we ought not to have a standard of weights and measures, nor a fixed value of coin, nor protection against issues of paper money. Let every one take care of himself. No man can assume to be a respectable minister of the Gospel without the license of a church organization; no man can practice law without an approved

examination before a court; no man can teach without a certificate of qualification; no man can sell goods or peddle goods, or drive a dray or a cab, or an express wagon, without registering and a license. The public is defended from the impositions of the hackney coachman, but not from the quack doctor and patent-medicine vender. No man is believed to be a carpenter, or a machinist, or a master in any other profession, unless he has served an apprenticeship to it. Then why, I ask, in the name of honesty and civilization, when we come to consider the human frame, the most wonderful structure of God, the divine idea of mechanism, in whose structure a thousand wonderful and complicated actions are in play, many of whose laws, after more than two thousand years of investigation, are still unknown,—why, I say, do our governments surrender this beautiful structure to be prostituted to the mercenary practices of charlatans?’

“A large part of his life was spent in an

appeal for legislation to improve our sanitary conditions and to subdue the curse of quackery. He read, he plead, he labored for the creation of a Minister of Health in the Cabinet Department at Washington. He had personal interviews with the President,\* and it is to the credit of the strong, good man who now occupies this chair that he listened to him with interest, and was not unmoved by his argument. But it was thought that the time was not ripe. It certainly must come soon, and when it comes there will be general lament that the man who was best fitted to fill the place first,—*ivit ad plures*,—had gone before.

Comegys kept his youth to the last; he was interested in medicine to the very last day. 'We must talk over the scheme of the University,' he would say to me, whenever I chanced to meet him. He could discuss any subject in medicine with any of the

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\* The above reference is to Mr. Cleveland, then President of the United States.—Ed.

younger men, and with what freshness and philanthropy! In the discussion of the fresh-air treatment of tuberculosis at the Academy, only yesterday it seems, he told the story of a young man who had recently consulted him. He had to say to him that his case was hopeless here, and to advise him to seek change of air. 'But,' said the young man, 'I have no means even to buy a street-car ticket.' Dr. Comegys informed him that money was not necessary; that he should start and walk to Atlanta, and beg his way. He would give him, he said, a certificate of his condition and everybody would help him on the road. He could travel like a German student on his *Wanderjahre*, and no one would refuse him food. 'Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee.'

"Comegys had the pure spirit of discipleship. This is what he said once of one of his teachers and in the presence of him in a public address. It was in the last days of George Wood, and the occasion was a speech which

rightly made him famous before the Alumni Association of the University of Pennsylvania. The Academy of Music was crowded with the *élite* of Philadelphia, for in that city the people still take deep interest in medical affairs. The old master sat on the stage, the central figure in a flood of light, but there was a shadow in front of him—the dark line of the scythe of the reaper, who was even then standing close behind his chair. ‘Venerable and remarkable man ! Who, without ever laboring for fame, has received it ; who, without ever climbing for great stations, has been lifted into them ; and no man ever suspected his capability for them, or envied him his well-merited success.’

“ ‘Over a vast sea, beyond all storms,’ he continued with his apostrophe, ‘I behold a barque slowly moving through sluggish waters, borne so gently by the breeze that fills the stiffened sails that not a ripple breaks upon the heavy waves. Serenely stands the master at his post, steering for his last harbor.

Somber and shadowy is the scene about him; yet across yon headland comes a rosy tinge of sheen, lighting up the tranquil face of the lone voyager who seeks the port of peace.'

"These are the men who for three-quarters of a century have borne the standard of medicine and surgery in the Queen City of the West. You may not point out in other fields greater purity of purpose, sacrifice of self, usefulness to others, than these lives have led, or show sentiments more sublime than these ideas have expressed. And the rank and file which followed, though failing from lack of opportunity or ability to express themselves in the same way, have led the same lives and held to the same ideals.

"The memory of them inspires us. We, too, believe in necromancy, as we know that wisdom and inspiration come from consulting the oracles of the dead. It is as Ruskin said: 'The grave is the best pulpit; the voice reaches farthest from the grave.'

“In contemplating the lives of these men the young physician may well be proud of his profession. When Correggio stood before a picture of Raphael, he cried: ‘*Auch’ io sono pittore*’—‘I, too, am a painter;’ and Byron, when he stood by the tomb of Galileo, exclaimed: ‘He was one of us.’ \* \* \*.”

Dr. and Mrs. Comegys had a family of six children—two daughters and four sons: Ellen Tiffin Comegys, Mary Porter Comegys, Cornelius Marim Comegys, Edward Tiffin Comegys, William Henry Comegys, and Charles George Comegys. The daughters were born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, the oldest son, Cornelius, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the other three sons in Cincinnati. With the exception of Cornelius, who died of typhoid fever at the age of twenty years, all the children survived their parents. The daughters and youngest son, Charles, an attorney at law, resided with their parents and still live in Cincinnati. Major Edward T. Comegys, M. D., Surgeon,

U. S. Army, and Major William H. Comegys, Paymaster, U. S. Army, reside at the several army stations to which they may be assigned. All are unmarried with the exception of Edward, who has been twice married. On February 14, 1882, he married Minnie G. Notson, daughter of Major William M. Notson, Surgeon, U. S. Army, by whom he had one child: Edward Tiffin Comegys, Jr. His wife died December 6, 1884. On May 5, 1887, he married Grace Willcox, daughter of General Orlando B. Willcox, U. S. Army, by whom he had three children: Cornelius Willcox, Gerald Farnsworth, and Leonard Marim Comegys. All the children are living, except Gerald, who died at a very early age.

The outlines of the life of Dr. Comegys sketched above seem meager and perhaps fail to do anything except to indicate the salient points of his career. His fellow-workers, friends, and patients could, no doubt, add much, even unknown to his own family;

for he was not boastful of his deeds, nor asked for recognition for his services. The results speak for themselves, though his long life was too short to do what he hoped to accomplish.

It is always hard for a man of an active, buoyant temperment to realize that the infirmities of age are creeping upon him, and that his life's work is drawing to a close. So it was with Dr. Comegys. His was not a disposition which gave up easily, or retired to dream over the events of the past. He kept in touch with his profession and busied himself with the duties of the hour. There was no lack of energy on his part and his executive powers were still great. These he used to the last.

His wife died on July 13, 1895, and in less than a year he followed her. Within a few weeks of his death he appeared to be in his usual health; but, on Saturday, the eleventh day of January, 1896, he came home sick with nausea, and what was not then

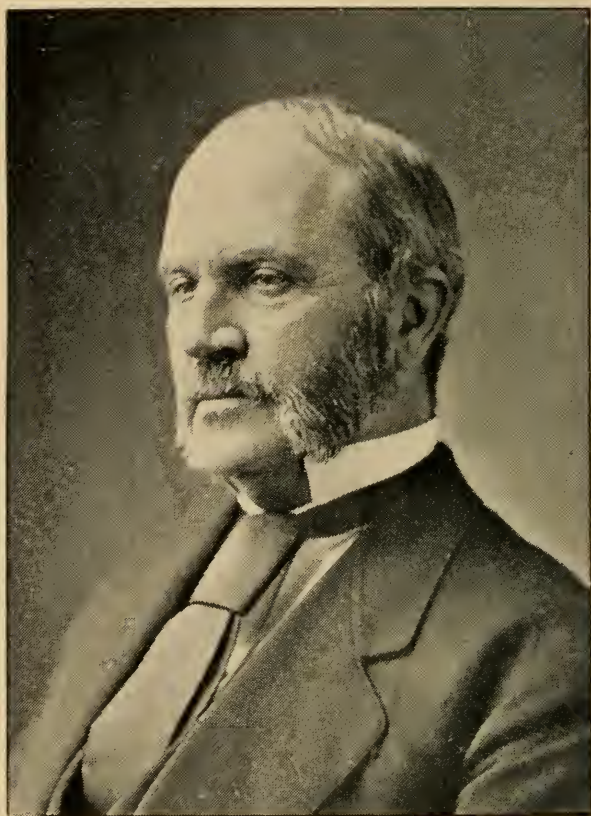
supposed to be very serious proved to be his last illness. At first he was merely confined to the house and, though sick and nauseated, he saw some of his patients and even held a joint committee meeting, composed of members of the University Board and representatives from the Ohio Medical College, in reference to the proposed medical department of the University. Later, on January 28, serious symptoms set in and he was confined to his bed, from which he never arose. His death occurred at a quarter to one o'clock in the morning of the tenth day of February, 1896.\*

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\* NOTE.—He died of "uraemia."







*C. G. Comegys*

IN HIS SIXTIETH YEAR.

## FUNERAL SERVICES AT ST. PAUL M. E. CHURCH.

FEBRUARY 12, 1896.

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The funeral services of Dr. C. G. Comegys were held in St. Paul M. E. Church, southwest corner of Seventh and Smith Streets, at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, February 12, 1896.

The church was filled by the friends of the deceased to the number of one thousand or more. The Board of Directors, faculty, and students of the University, above fifty of the leading physicians of the city, the Official Board of the church, those connected with the several institutions of which he was a member, and hundreds of personal friends were present. The services throughout were simple and solemn, making a deep impression upon all.

The pastor, Rev. J. M. Meeker, Ph. D., was assisted in the services by Rev. Frank Woods

Baker, D. D., rector of St. Paul's P. E. Church, and Rev. D. H. Moore, D. D., editor of the "Western Christian Advocate."

At the house the pastor offered a brief prayer, and at the church read the Scripture sentences as the body was borne to the front of the chancel, while the organ sounded the solemn notes of the "Cujus Animam" from the "Stabat Mater."

The congregation arose as the funeral cortege entered, and remained standing while a male quartet from St. Paul's P. E. Church impressively chanted, "Lord, Let Me Know Mine End and the Number of My Days."

Rev. Dr. Baker read the Scripture selections, the ninetieth Psalm, and a portion of the fifteenth chapter of I. Corinthians.

The hymn, "Asleep in Jesus," was sung by the quartet, following which the pastor, Rev. Dr. Meeker, made a brief address, in which, while recognizing the high professional, intellectual, and social standing of Dr. Comegys, he emphasized his most striking characteristic

of a Christlike life and devotion to the spiritual good of others. The quartet then chanted "Come Unto Me, All Ye that Labor and Are Heavy Laden," by Flemming. This was followed by a fervent and sympathetic prayer, offered by Dr. Moore.

To the notes of the solemn "Funeral March," by Chopin, the sad procession moved out of the church.

The active pallbearers were Drs. J. C. Oliver and J. A. Thompson, of the medical profession, and his office associates; A. B. Benedict and E. K. Stallo, of the University Board; Professor Ward Baldwin, of the University faculty, and W. E. Brooks, of the Official Board of St. Paul M. E. Church. The honorary pallbearers were his attending physicians, prominent members of the medical profession, the Board of Directors and Clerk of the University, members of the Official Board of the church, members of various boards and institutions with which he was

connected, and many of his old and personal friends.

The interment was in Spring Grove Cemetery, where the last rites were recited by Rev. Dr. Meeker in the presence, only, of the family and relatives.

## MEMORIAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

FEBRUARY 11, 1896.

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At a called meeting of the medical profession of Cincinnati, on February 11, 1896, the following resolution was adopted, requested printed in the medical and public press, engrossed upon the minutes of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, and a copy sent to the bereaved family :

“The medical profession is assembled to-day to express a last word in memory of their late associate, Dr. C. G. Comegys.

“He was no ordinary man. For forty-eight years he has been a notable figure, not only in his profession, but as a citizen of pure life, of honest purposes, serving the public faithfully, and with great ability in various positions.

“In all his relations with us, his professional brethren, he was a gentleman, moved by the

spirit of doing unto others as he would have them do to him. He detested everything that savored of the empiric.

"A man of gentle, liberal spirit, he was charitable and forgiving. He was, indeed, the friend of his profession, esteeming its object to prevent disease and to do good to all.

"He was the friend of young men, and by his words of encouragement and his example did much to aid them. Yes, he did much to elevate the tone of the profession in this city.

"Dr. Comegys was a man of superior intellect. He fully exemplified the fact that the strong physician is one whose mind is not 'cabined, cribbed, or confined' by strictly technical and professional reading, but is enlarged by all collateral studies and observation. He very early achieved a prominent place as a practitioner. He was a sound counsellor, a good clinician, a clear lecturer and teacher. He was the advocate of higher education for the people and for medical students. He did

much by word and deed to further this great object.

“He believed his profession, in its ability to do good mentally, morally, and physically, superior to any other. He often spoke of the power of the good, able physician.

“He originated the idea of having a Board of Health created by Congress, whose head should be a physician and a Cabinet officer. His idea will yet take form. He advocated that physicians should be representatives of the people in Congress and the State Legislatures.

“A man of deep religious convictions, and yet charitable to all, he was dominated by the spirit of walking humbly and acting mercifully, serving Him whom he regarded as his Master and Saviour. He did not believe that it was all of life to live or all of death to die.

“He belonged to the time when the general practitioner was not only the medical adviser, but the counsellor and friend of his clients.

There were giants in those days. Up to a few weeks before his death our departed friend showed the ability and superiority of the general practitioner.

“He is an example for every young struggling man. His honesty, his high tone, his noble purposes, his usefulness, should impress his memory on all. Let us cherish it.

(Signed)

JOHN A. MURPHY.

B. P. GOODE.

WM. H. TAYLOR.

JOSEPH EICHBERG.”

Tribute of a former student to the memory of Dr. Comegys, delivered at the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, on Tuesday, February 11, 1896, at a called meeting:

“*Mr. President*—I want to say a few words of tribute to the memory of one who was both my physician, teacher, and my friend, and who probably had a stronger hold on my heart-strings than any other member of my profession in this city. On meditating over

the all-wise problems of nature, I sometimes think that, as each human being is born, nature holds back a certain portion of its reserve forces, and stores them away in a sort of strong box; that once in every decade or generation these forces are given out to one or more creations who are destined to be leaders of men, to mold human thought, and to create the history of their age. At one time a great divine is thus given to the world; at another time a great statesman, a great general, a great poet, and a great physician. I think that Dr. Comegys received a liberal share of these endowments from nature's strong box, for he certainly was well endowed with those faculties that go to make the great physician; he was in fact one of those giants in medicine that, in general practice, are growing scarcer and scarcer in our profession.

“Dr. Comegys was not only a great student of the medical literature of this country, but also in that of foreign countries as well. During his younger years in the practice of

his profession he translated from the French one of the most extensive works of that time on the history of medicine. He was a particularly warm admirer of the French school of medicine, and during his student-years at Paris and afterwards, he enjoyed the acquaintance and friendship of such men as Trousseau, Nelaton, Charcot, and others, who for nearly a century molded the medical minds of France. Of the great services he rendered to medicine in our city and country you are all aware.

“One of the greatest measures which he advocated during the closing years of his brilliant career was his bill asking the National Congress to enact a law placing a member of our profession in the President’s Cabinet as Secretary of the Department of Health.

“In character Dr. Comegys was of that grand and lofty type that scorns expediency, but endeavors to perform every duty from motives of right. His heart was as tender and sympathetic as that of a woman, and the young

man who went to him for counsel, in his sorrows or disappointments, always came away feeling better and with more manly resolves for the morrow. It could hardly be otherwise, for Dr. Comegys' words of advice and cheer always contained the sunbeams of hope.

"I had the honor of serving for a term in the Board of Directors of the University of Cincinnati with the deceased, and during that time I learned to appreciate his zeal and earnestness in the cause of education and of broad humanity. He was in this, as in everything else that he undertook, faithful and zealous to a degree that won the admiration of his associates. Dr. Comegys possessed one of those beautiful, sunshiny natures that was pleasant to contemplate. It was a nature that was as modest and as free from affectation as that of a child. It was a nature that was as thoroughly free from envy and guile as that first faint streak of dawn that one sees in its sublimest grandeur on the ocean, away off in

the distance, where the mighty expanse of water touches the horizon, and which heralds the approaching day." \*

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\* From account published in the *Western Christian Advocate*, February 19, 1896, of remarks made by Dr. Francis Dowling.

IN MEMORIAM.

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Cornelius G. Comegys.

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“There is no death! What seems so is transition;  
This life of mortal breath  
Is but a suburb of the life Elysian,  
Whose portal we call Death.”

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“A eulogy or studied words of commendation upon the life and character of the late Professor Cornelius G. Comegys cannot be given in the brief space allotted in a medical journal's columns. It would require many pages to do full justice to a man whose scholarly ability and high character have commanded the respect of a community for the space of more than half a century. For all these years Dr. Cornelius G. Comegys was constantly under the eye of the public, holding many important official positions to which he had been elevated by his fellow-

citizens, who appreciated his sterling integrity, both in professional and public life. To every official position to which he was ever called this man gave his best time and abilities. A man of broad views, he was a determined spirit, yet his convictions and conclusions were always expressed in a kindly and courteous manner.

“In official life he was not a seeker after personal aggrandizement. As a member of the University Board of Cincinnati his self-abnegation and personal devotion to the cause of higher education will ever be remembered by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him as an associate. Dr. Cornelius G. Comegys has left a reputation as a rich heritage, a sweet memory, to those who love virtue in official life; and the future historian of this great city, looking over the many, many years of faithful public service rendered by the deceased in his various positions of Alderman, member of the Board of Education, and University

Board, will accord him the credit for the prominent part he always took in the promotion of all that pertains to the true and beautiful for the masses of the people, to whom his heart ever went out. Let others speak of his medical abilities and brilliant mental attainments. We speak of him simply as a great and good citizen, one whose name will ever be identified with the growth and rounding out of a town and its evolution to a great, populous city.

Dr. Cornelius G. Comegys lived long beyond the usual time allotted to man, and he compressed in the space of that life an immense amount of mental and physical exertion. Like one of the brave Knights of old, he passed away to the silent beyond still clad in his armor, 'faithful unto the end.' To him has come that long and well-deserved rest that all receive but that few deserve. The name of Cornelius G. Comegys will shine as long as Cincinnati exists in name. Though the star of his life has set,

it sets 'As the morning star, which goes not down behind the darkened west, but melts away into the brightness of the coming day.'

T. C. M."\*

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\* Dr. T. C. Minor. (Published in *Lancet-Clinic*.)

## Cornelius G. Comegys.

"The death of a good man, grown old in the service of humanity, should call for more than passing notice, because of the vast influence such a life has exerted upon those with whom he has come in contact, and that his character may serve as a model to those of us who remain.

Dr. Comegys has been a most useful man in this community because of his life and example. He was a dignified, courtly gentleman, and consequently a man whose whole life was one of dignity, honor, and conscientious devotion to duty.

A few of the characteristics which stood out pre-eminently in his character showed the secret of his success and power. He was an enthusiast, and never allowed obstacles to darken for one moment the light of his zeal. No better example of his enthusiasm can be given than his steadfast faith in the future of

the University of Cincinnati. When this institution was menaced by foes without and enemies within, he clung steadfastly to the belief that these trials would pass away, and the future thus remained one of hope and faith. The noble institution which now crowns the elevation in Burnet Woods testifies to the correctness of his hope and faith. To him, more than to any other man, is due the credit of its present secure position.

In local medical circles there is no honor which was not bestowed upon him. No physician in Cincinnati ever held the respect and reverence of the entire profession more completely than did he. Every physician recognized his true manhood, his justness, his fairness, and his utter incapability for anything small or mean. His conscientious regard for the rights and privileges of others often led him to suffer personal loss rather than to be accused of even 'the appearance of evil.' His love and respect for his profession never faltered; he believed in it, and counted it the

noblest of all professions. During the late years of his life the veneration of his chosen calling led him to propose and strenuously advocate the creation, in the National Government, of a Department of Public Health, the head of the department to be a member of the President's cabinet. No lower position met his idea of what the necessity of such a work deserved.

Dr. Comegys was a firm believer in the tenets of the Christian religion. His beautiful character showed the depth of his belief far better than could anything else. He did not force his religious beliefs upon others, but by a life of singular purity demonstrated the truth of the religion of Christ.

The writer enjoyed a very close and intimate association with the deceased, and feels keenly the loss of a true, steadfast friend, a wise and kindly adviser, a large-hearted magnanimous man, and a noble, earnest, and loving physician.

In considering our present bereavement we

should look rather to the past than the present. We then see a long, useful life spent in the service of his fellow-man, a self-sacrifice to the duties and dangers of his profession, a character well-rounded by contact with all sorts and conditions of men, a name which shall ever be hallowed and revered by those who were fortunate enough to come within the sphere of his influence; all this and much more may be seen in retrospect. His life was a triumph, and his death has but broadened and extended that usefulness which had but a narrow sphere this side of eternity.

'His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, This is a man.'

M. D."\*

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\* Written by Dr. J. C. Oliver, and published in the *Cincinnati Tribune*, February 12, 1896.

## WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

FEBRUARY 12, 1896.

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Cornelius G. Comegys.

“Cincinnati mourns the Nestor of her physicians, and our Church one of her princeliest laymen. At one o’clock, Monday morning, Dr. Comegys was called; not unexpectedly, for he was in his eightieth year, and had been seriously ill. Only last summer the wife of his heart, the gracious and saintly Rebecca Tiffin, daughter of Ohio’s first Governor, was called from his side. He pined for the absent one; and yet maintained an outward calm, and suffered alone. It was during his early ventures in business that he wooed and won her; and the gratification of his professional ambition he ever ascribed to her encouragement and coöperation.

“But his teaching, and banking, and milling were practical and most useful preparation

for his real career, upon which he entered in this city in 1848, having graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as a Doctor of Medicine. Bishop Simpson was then editor of the "Western Christian Advocate," and young Comegys, attracted by his genius, eloquence, and great-heartedness, himself a Methodist, became his ardent admirer and confidential friend. The poise and evident ability of the young practitioner won the great man's faith and love, and the professional care of his family—a recognition of so conspicuous character that it at once established the young doctor in an enviable practice.

"As skilful with pen as with scalpel, young Comegys recreated as assistant on the 'Western,' and when, following his heroic and brilliant cholera practice in 1849, he went for higher medical learning to London and Paris, he became its European correspondent. His interest thus early formed for the paper never ceased, and occasionally, to the very end, he

enriched its columns with his best thoughts on art and science, religion and Church polity.

“His youthful ardor in learning never left him or suffered the snows of age to lie upon his fertile brain. He kept his undimmed eye on science and philosophy, and eagerly scanned their latest achievements. His record herein is idyllic.

“At the recent dedication of Hanna Hall,\* University of Cincinnati, he presided with courtly grace, and his address was remarkably virile, and comprehensive of the true aims and requirements of a great modern educational institution.

“He was a poem in clay. No Roman senator ever presented a more commanding and lofty presence. There was the unconscious pride of high breeding and Revolutionary ancestry. Yet was there no trace of vanity

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\* This should be McMicken Hall. Hanna Hall was not yet built.—Ed.

or austerity. The reposeful dignity of conscious strength blent with the kindly lines of almost womanly sympathy, and gave his imperial presence a benign and winning aspect. His patients instinctively trusted him. Well they might, for, in addition to his wide learning and marvelous natural resources, *he never entered the sick room without consultation in silent prayer with the Great Physician*—a fact known only in the innermost circle of his most sacred friendship.

“He was a member and office-bearer in St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, in whose sacred temple his funeral rites are to be celebrated this afternoon by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Meeker, assisted by the editor\* of this paper, and Dr. Baker, the rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.”

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\* Rev. D. H. Moore, D. D. (writer of this memoir).

## CINCINNATI HOSPITAL.

DEATH OF CORNELIUS G. COMEGYS, M. D.

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CINCINNATI, O., March 6, 1896.

The following was adopted by the Medical Staff at their meeting held on the above date :

“In noting the death of Cornelius G. Comegys, M. D., which occurred on the 10th ultimo, the Medical Staff desires to record its high appreciation of the abilities and virtues of its esteemed member.

“For nearly forty years Dr. Comegys was a visiting physician to the Medical Department of the Hospital, in which capacity he manifested deep scientific interest in his work, being always *au courant* with the latest advances of medical knowledge. He was tender and considerate of those under his care, and earnest and lucid in his clinical teaching.

“His association with his colleagues was always characterized by cordial friendship,

strict professional courtesy, and a sense of honor which marked the true gentleman.

“During several years that he occupied the position of President of the Medical Staff he devoted much time and thought to the advancement of the interests and efficiency of the Hospital.

W. H. TAYLOR, M. D.

G. A. FACKLER, M. D.

THAD. A. REAMY, M. D.

F. FORCHHEIMER, M. D.

J. C. MACKENZIE, M. D.”

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

RESOLUTIONS BY MEDICAL STAFF.

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Resolutions of respect to the memory of C. G. Comegys, M. D., adopted by the Medical Staff of Christ's Hospital:

"WHEREAS, Our Medical Director, C. G. Comegys, M. D., has been called by a Divine providence to a higher and greater sphere of usefulness; and

"WHEREAS, Christ's Hospital has lost a valued friend, a wise counsellor, and a noble and staunch advocate; be it

"*Resolved*, That we, the members of the Medical Staff, desire to express to the family of the deceased our great sympathy with them in their bereavement; and

"*Resolved*, That Christ's Hospital has lost a true and steadfast friend,—one whose zeal for the cause has never wavered; one who, since the very inception of the institution, has stood

steadfast and firm in his devotion to its interests. When the days were dark and clouds threatened, his hand steered clear of the obstacles, and brought the institution to its present safe harbor.

*“Resolved,* That each member of the staff feels a sense of personal loss. He was loved and revered by his associates. ‘None knew him but to love him, none named him but to praise.’

*“Resolved,* That a copy of these resolutions be published in the daily papers; that a copy be sent to his family, and that a copy be spread upon the minutes of the staff.

J. C. OLIVER, M. D.

J. M. WITHROW, M. D.

D. D. BRAMBLE, M. D.

*Committee.”*

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

Extract from the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

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“The Hospital sustained a great and irreparable loss in the death of the late C. G. Comegys, who had been prominently identified with this institution from its beginning, and served as its Medical Director. His interest in this work and love for it were exceptionally deep and strong. With advancing age, he surrendered nearly all of the positions of honor and trust he had held for many years; but he determined to remain with us to the end, or so long as the Board of Trustees thought it wise. He named the Hospital, rejoiced in its growth, believed in its great future, and never wearied talking of its prospects. Forty years ago he had urged in vain the importance of this humane and churchly activity upon the attention of the

Methodist laity of this city. No one could have left us who would have been more missed from our counsels.

H. C. WEAKLEY,  
*Corresponding Secretary.*"

## UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI IN MEMORY OF THE  
LATE DR. CORNELIUS G. COMEGYS.

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“The Board of Directors of the University of Cincinnati has sustained a severe and grievous loss in the death of Dr. Cornelius G. Comegys, who departed this life on Monday, February 10, 1896, in the 80th year of his age.

“For many years he has been our colleague, and for the past five years, he has with wisdom and constant fidelity discharged the many and various duties of the Chairman of our Board. His dignity and cordiality of manner, his enthusiastic interest in the development, advancement, and welfare of the University in all its branches of learning, and his inspiring personality will ever be remembered by us with sincere and profound respect.

“His life was active and progressive, not only in his professional career as an eminent and successful physician for almost a half century in this community, but also as a well informed, broad-minded, and public spirited citizen, who willingly assumed his share of the responsibility in a movement made in this city for public improvement; his labors in the cause of humanity, his deeds of charity and benevolence, his conscientious and effective work as a Christian and active member of his church, his laudable record as an earnest and cordial friend of our Public Schools, and as an ardent advocate of higher education, have endeared him to the hearts of his fellow-citizens, and his influence for good will be enduring and justly appreciated in this community for all time to come.

“We point with pride to our new University Buildings, which were commenced and occupied for scholastic work during the administration of Dr. Comegys as Chairman of our Board, and with a sense of real justice, it is

our pleasure to give full credit to him for his encouragement in the consummation of this most important undertaking.

“The following concise statement gives the important incidents of his busy and well spent life:

“He was born July 23, 1816, at Cherbourg, Delaware, and descended from patriotic and distinguished ancestors; his father was governor of his native state. He began life as a country school-teacher, later was a civil engineer, a bank clerk, and in 1848 was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as a Doctor of Medicine. Subsequently, he came to Cincinnati and soon obtained a large and lucrative practice, and he stood in the front rank of the men of his profession.

“He assisted in organizing the Miami Medical College, the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, and at one time was identified with the Medical College of Ohio as one of its Trustees, and was also a member of its Faculty. He was one of the founders and

twice President of the Academy of Medicine, a member of the American Medical Association, a member of the Delaware State Medical Society, also of the Western Reserve Historical Society of Ohio, and a corporate member of the Historical and Philosophical Society of the State of Ohio.

"In recent years he was Chairman of the Special Committee of the American Medical Association to secure an Act of Congress for the creation of a Department of Public Health, the secretary of which was by the proposed law to be a cabinet officer with official position and powers equal to those exercised by the heads of other national departments of our government; this was a measure of so much importance in his estimation for the sanitary and hygienic protection of our country from infectious and contagious diseases, that he labored unceasingly in its behalf and looked forward to its ultimate accomplishment with confident expectation. For many years he was a member of our City

School Board, and also served as a member of our City Council, and was instrumental in establishing our Night High School, whose benefits were enjoyed by many who are prominent and influential men in our city at this time.

“But it is with his long years of devoted service as a member of the University Board we are most familiar, and it is with hearts full of sorrow we submit to the will of an All-wise Providence, who has removed from this community, this most worthy and noble citizen, and has terminated the life of our esteemed associate and colleague, who devoted his talents and energy more for the good of others than for his own personal welfare and gain. We mingle our grief with others, who, like ourselves, knew full well his purity of character, his sincerity of purpose, his extreme unselfishness, and the strength of his personal friendship. Therefore it is

“*Resolved*, That as an expression of our great esteem and personal respect for the

memory of the deceased, these resolutions will be spread upon the minutes of this meeting of our Board, and a copy of the same will be sent by the clerk to the family, with the assurance of our tender and heartfelt sympathy with them in their sad bereavement, and also a copy be furnished to the press.

FRANK J. JONES,  
ISAAC M. WISE,  
THAD. A. REAMY,  
W. McALPIN,  
EDMUND K. STALLO,  
*Committee."*

## UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE FACULTY.

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“WHEREAS, Death has removed from our midst Dr. C. G. Comegys, the venerable and honored President of the Board of Directors of this institution; therefore

“*Resolved*, That in the uniformly kind and courteous bearing of the deceased, in his moral earnestness, in his unwearied pursuit of ideal aims, in his love of truth yet kindly tolerance of views and judgments differing from his own, we recognize a character of rare attractiveness and worth; and that in his death we have lost a co-worker, counselor, and friend whom we deeply respected and warmly loved, while this institution has lost a zealous and faithful officer, one ardently devoted to its interests, and of firm and abiding faith in its future.

*“Resolved,* That with profound gratitude we make recognition of the eminent services which, by his true and high ideals of University life and aims, by his unwearied watchfulness and unselfish labors through long years of struggle and discouragement, he has rendered to the cause of higher education in this community and to the upbuilding on firmer and broader foundations of this institution; and that we hereby express our conviction that in the tradition of this noble life our institution inherits something which will enter into its future as an inspiring and moulding force, being an incentive and stimulus to the young, and making ever for richer and truer life among them.

*“Resolved,* That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Faculty, that they be given to the daily press, and that copies be sent to the Board of Directors and to the family of the deceased.”

## UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE STUDENTS.

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“WHEREAS, It has pleased God in His Wisdom to remove from our midst one who has been most earnest in love and labor for the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Cornelius G. Comegys; and

“WHEREAS, He has ever been a faithful advocate and defender of its interests; therefore,

“*Be it resolved*, by the students of the University of Cincinnati in a general meeting assembled,

“First: In his death the University loses a staunch friend and one to whom is due, in great measure, its present position of influence as an educational institution.

“Second: That we, who partake of the results of his labor, mourn his loss as that of a beloved benefactor.

“Third: That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his bereaved family, as an expression of our sympathy; that they be published in the daily papers; that copies be sent to the University publications; that they be inscribed on the minutes of the Executive Committee; and that a copy be presented to the Faculty.

L. D. OLIVER,  
LOUISE SPILMAN,  
ETHEL PHILLIPS,  
EDITH ALDEN,  
MALCOLM MCAVOY,  
RUTH BUTTERWORTH,  
CHARLES REINHART,  
DUDLEY PALMER,  
*Committee.*  
SYLVIA EWAN, Sec'y.”

ST. PAUL M. E. CHURCH.

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“The following minute was unanimously adopted by the Official Board of St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, on February 11, 1896:

**In Memoriam.**

“It is with deep regret and profound sorrow that we have to record the death of our dear brother, Dr. C. G. Comegys.

“For nearly half a century he had been a member of St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church, for many years was an honored teacher in the Bible School, and at the time of his death was one of the trustees of the Church.

“He always took a great interest in all branches of the work of the church and school, and of the various societies connected therewith, and was very liberal with his means for their support. He was a regular attend-

ant at all the services, and those who were accustomed to hear him give his testimony at the prayer-meeting will miss his inspiring and helpful talks, which came from a heart filled with the Holy Spirit.

“He was a typical Christian gentleman. His consistency of life, the wisdom of his counsels, the fervency of his prayers, his devotion to his Church, and many winsome personal qualities endeared him to those with whom he associated as a Christian.

“He was one of the best Bible students in the city, and was a man of great learning, and stood at the head of his profession. He was greatly interested in the welfare of his fellow-men, and did all in his power to further those institutions which were for the development of mankind, and gave much time and thought to the question of lifting the masses to a higher plane, and bringing them under the influence of the gospel.

“He was of a cheerful and genial nature, and many in the various walks of life will

mourn the loss of one who was such a devoted, good, broad-minded, and kind-hearted man. No one knew him but to love him, and no one conversed with him but he felt a desire to know more and to live a better life.

“We desire to convey to the afflicted family of our deceased brother our sincerest sympathy, and we request that a copy of this minute be recorded in the minutes of the Board, and a copy be furnished to the family.

R. S. RUST,

W. A. MEGRUE,

J. F. WILTSEE,

W. E. BROOKS,

*Committee.”*







REBECCA TIFFIN COMEGYS.

## APPENDIX.



### Mrs. Rebecca Tiffin Comegys.

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REBECCA TURNER TIFFIN was the youngest daughter of Dr. Edward Tiffin\* and Mary Porter (his second wife). Her father was one of the most important historical characters of this state. Born in Carlisle, England, on June 19, 1766, he came to this country, with his parents, at the age of eighteen years, and settled in Berkeley county, Virginia. He studied medicine at the Jefferson Medical College, and began practice in Charlestown, Virginia, where he speedily became prominent, socially and politically. When a party of Virginians came to the Territory north-west of the Ohio to take up land, he was among them and settled at Chillicothe. While in Virginia he so won the confidence and friendship of General

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\* For a full account of Dr. Tiffin, see "Life of Dr. Edward Tiffin, First Governor of Ohio," by Col. W. E. Gilmore; also, "A History of Ohio," by Daniel J. Ryan, p. 60 and p. 167.

George Washington as to receive from him a letter of introduction to General Arthur St. Clair, the Governor of the North-West Territory. Edward Tiffin was a natural leader in public affairs, and when the Constitutional Convention was held in Cincinnati, for the purpose of the formation of a state, he was chosen the President of it. When Ohio was admitted into the Union, he was elected the first Governor; and, at the close of his term, was re-elected for a second. He was also at various times—Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Ohio Legislature; a United States Senator from Ohio; Commissioner of Public Lands at the General Land Office (equivalent to what is now known as the Department of the Interior) at Washington, during President Madison's administration. This latter office he voluntarily gave up, on account of his desire to return to his home, and took charge of the Land Office in Ohio, which he maintained at Chillicothe. He died on August 9, 1829.

Rebecca Turner Tiffin was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, on April 7, 1820, and lived there until her marriage to Cornelius George Comegys on October 3, 1839. The first ten years of their married life were divided between Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—though the longer period was passed at the former place. She then returned with her husband to Ohio, and a new and permanent home was established at Cincinnati, where she lived and died.

The early years of married life were eventful ones to the young wife, who, the youngest daughter of the family, inexperienced and naturally diffident, was placed in a new life involving strange and trying conditions; but the inherent strength of her character developed with the exigencies of the moment, and the burdens and cares of a large and growing family of children were borne with the uncomplaining cheerfulness and unselfish affection which characterized her nature.

Although naturally domestic in her disposi-

tion, she did not neglect her social duties, nor those of her church, to which her devotion was very great. She had at an early age, of her own free will, and without consultation with her family, become a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This was done under a strong conviction of duty, and her faith never swerved to the end of her long and useful life. She engaged much in the religious duties and charitable work of the church, and was one of the foremost and faithful members of its societies.

She was a member of the Ladies' Home Missionary Society (later absorbed by the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church), the Woman's Home Missionary Society, Vice-President and a life member of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, and a member of the local societies of St. Paul M. E. Church. When the Sanitary Commission held its great "Fair," with branches in the principal cities (during one of the coldest winters ever known in this

country), for the relief of the soldiers who were fighting for their country in the Civil War, she rendered effective aid in this noble work. Her life was full of good deeds.

Her character is well described in the language of the following extract taken from a resolution passed, at her death, by a society to which she was much attached: "Gentle, unassuming, shrinking, yet with a courage that would endure the fires of persecution if principles were to be upheld; loyal to conviction and duty, with a conscientiousness to be admired and emulated; faithful unto death—such was our friend and sister."\*

She died,† at her home in Cincinnati, on Saturday, July 13, 1895, at ten minutes to eleven o'clock at night, after an illness which commenced on June 25. The funeral took place at her late residence on Tuesday after-

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\* Resolutions by the Cincinnati Branch "Woman's Foreign Missionary Society." The verses used in the dedication are also taken from these "resolutions."

† Cause of death, "cerebral embolism."

noon, July 16, 1895, at two o'clock. In the absence of the pastor of St. Paul M. E. Church, Rev. D. H. Moore, D. D., editor of the "Western Christian Advocate," assisted by Rev. F. W. Bope, assistant minister of St. Paul's P. E. Church, conducted the services, which were simple, but impressive. Rev. Dr. Moore read a brief account of the life of the deceased, and Rev. Mr. Bope read the burial service. The hymns, "By Cool Siloam's Shady Rill," and "Asleep in Jesus," were sung by Mrs. Jeannie S. Healy. The burial at Spring Grove Cemetery was private—only the family and relatives being present. Rev. Dr. Moore read the committal at the grave.



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